

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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INFO AMCONSUL MARACAIBO
SECSTATE WASHDC 1554

UNCLAS CARACAS 2448

PASS OED/MEPD AND OIM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, VE
SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: EARY WARNING; DECONTAMINATION OF LAKE MARA-
CAIBO

1. PROJECT NAME: DECONTAMINATION OF LAKE MARACAIBO

2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION: THE GOV HAS ANNOUNCED AN AMBITIOUS PLAN
TO DECONTAMINATE LAKE MARACAIBO. THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
INVESTIGATION, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND RENEWABLE NATURAL RESOURC-
ES, RECENTLY ISSUED AN INTEGRAL STUDY (COPY POUCHED MEPD, BURKE)
OUTLINING POSSIBLE OPTIONS FOR CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT. BASICALLY
THE PROJECT INVOLVES COLLECTING AND TREATING THE SEWAGE AND OTHER
EFFLUENTS WHICH ARE PRESENTLY BEING DUMPED IN THE LAKE, AND
MAINTAINING THE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE OF THIS LARGE BODY OF WATER.
PLANNING ENCOMPASSES THE FOLLOWING SOURCES OF SEWAGE AND EFFLUENTS:
A. MUNICIPALITIES, MARACAIBO (TWO TREATMENT PLANTS) AND THE
LARGER CITIES AROUND LAKE (11) TREATMENT PLANTS);
B. EXISTING INDUSTRIES, BOLIVAR SLAUGHTERHOUSE, EL TABLAZO PETRO-
CHEMICAL COMPLEX;
C. FUTURE INDUSTRIES, SUCH AS THE CORPOZULIA STEEL MILL. ACTION IS
ALSO REQUIRED TO REDUCE THE LAKE'S SALT CONTEENT, AND TO
COUNTERACT THE CONTAMINATION RESULTING FROM THE EXTENSIVE USE OF
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PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS IN THE SURROUNDING AREA.

3. EXECUTING AGENCY/PROJECT MANAGER: INFORMATION ON THE INTEGRAL
STUDY IS AVAILABLE FROM:
ING. GUSTAVO PARRA PARDI
JEFE DE DIVISION
DIVISION DE INVESTIGACIONES SOBRE

CONTAMINACION AMBIENTAL (DISCA)
KILOMETER 8, CARTERA LA UNION
EL HATILLO, ESTADO MIRANDA, VENEZUELA
TEL: 961-1224, 961-1004, 964-8605

QUESTIONS AS TO THE PROGRAM TO COLLECT AND TREAT THE SEWAGE COULD BE
DIRECTED TO:

DR. FREDDY LISTA
DIRECTOR REGIONAL, INOS
MARACAIBO, VENEZUELA

4. STATUS OF PROJECT/ANTICIPATED BID DATES: INOS IS CONTRACTING
LOCALLY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO CONDUIT SYSTEMS AT A COST OF ABOUT

17MILLION DOLLARS TO TRY AND PREVENT SALT WATER FROM ENTERING THE
LAKE. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SEWAGE COLLECTION AND TREATMENT PHASES
HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL 1979 FOR BUDGETARY REASONS. ONE OF THE
KEY DECISIONS, NOT YET MADE, IS WHETHER THE TREATED WATER WOULD BE
RETURNED TO THE LAKE OR USED FOR IRRIGATION OR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES
(THE EL TABLAZO COMPLEX, ONCE FULLY OPERATIONAL, WILL REQUIRE SUB-
STANTIAL INPUTS OF WATER).

5. ESTIMATED PROJECT COST/FOREIGN CONTENT: TOTAL COST OF THE PROGRAM
HAS BEEN UNOFFICIALLY ESTIMATED AT ABOUT \$200 MILLION. THE PRINCIPAL
AREAS FOR POSSIBLE FOREIGN PARTICIPATION WOULD INCLUDE THE TREATMENT
PLANS AND FURTHER SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES
REQUIRED FOR PLANS IMPLEMENTATION.
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6. COMPETITIVE FACTORS: FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FROM U.S. CONTRIBUTED
TO INTEGRAL STUDY: UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, PROFESSORS JOHN J.
GANNON, KHALIL MANCY, AND ROLF A. DEININGER; EPA, EDWIN E. GELDREICH,
MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH LABORATORY, CINCINNATI. DR.
JENS AAGE HANSEN, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DENMARK, ASSISTED DLCSA
WITH SOME OF THE TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED IN THE STUDY.
VAKY

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